Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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MONTANA NEWSLETTER

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
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Vol. 12 January, 1982 No. 2

Alene A. Cooper, Acting State Librarian Jo Ann Fallang, Editor

ALMA S. JACOBS, STATE LIBRARIAN RETIRES

Alma S. Jacobs, State Librarian, Montana State Library, retired December 31, 1981. The State Library Commission and staff of Montana State Library honored her at a reception on December 11, attended by colleagues, friends and state officials.

Mrs. Jacobs joined the State Library staff in July, 1973, after having served as director of the Great Falls Public Library for 19 years. While director in Great Falls, citizens passed a bond issue to provide funding to construct a new public library building, which was dedicated in 1967. As State Librarian, she supervised planning for new quarters for Montana State Library, which are scheduled for completion in summer, 1982.

Mrs. Jacobs earned a B.A. in Sociology from Talladega College and a M.S.L.S. from Columbia University. She received an honorary Doctor of Letters from Montana State University and a Doctor of Humane Letters from Mount Holyoke. She served as President of the Montana Library Association and the Pacific Northwest Library Association, and as a member of the American Library Association Executive Board.

Mrs. Jacobs has expressed a desire to become an avid public library patron and to "read, read, read!!" Her knowledge and experience will be missed by all librarians, trustees and friends and we wish her happiness in her retirement.

ALENE COOPER NAMED ACTING STATE LIBRARIAN - On December 11, 1981, the State Library Commission named Alene A. Cooper Acting State Librarian, effective January 1, 1982. Ms. Cooper has been Coordinator of Library Development at Montana State Library since January, 1977. Before that she served as director of the Glasgow-City-County Library and director of the Great Falls Public Library.

SEARCH COMMITTEE - A search committee has been named by the State Library Commission to select a new State Librarian. Search committee members are:

Gary Buchanan, Director, Montana Department of Commerce, Helena
Joan Evans, Montana State Library Commission, Billings
Darlene Staffeldt, Montana State Library, Helena
Earle Thompson, Montana State Library Commission, Missoula

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

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930 E Lyndale Ave.
Helena, Montana 59601

PLEASE RETURN

Darleen Tiensvold, Montana State Library, Helena
Steve VonVogt, Parmly Billings Library, Billings

Following its first meeting on January 8, 1982, the committee announced that it expects to be advertising the position in the late winter and, hopefully, will be interviewing candidates in the late spring. Members of the library community in the state are encouraged to make their concerns about the future State Librarian known to the committee.

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION - Henry McClernan was elected Chairman of the Montana State Library Commission at the December 11, 1981, Commission meeting and Joan Evans was elected Vice-Chairman.

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY PROGRAM REVIEW - At its September, 1981, meeting the State Library Commission directed that a program review of the State Library be undertaken. The agency is now entering a period of significant transition. It will soon move into a new building in the Capitol Complex; possible cuts in federal funding are anticipated; and, unexpectedly, the Commission must now search for a new State Librarian.

The Commission appointed Commission members Joan Evans and Henry McClernan and State Library staff members Alene Cooper and Beth Givens to serve on the committee. Lt. Governor Turman consented to add Cheryl Hutchinson from his staff to the committee.

The review committee met on January 7, 1982, and began the process by deciding on the following time table and topics:

January 7	- review of the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
January 29	- review of depository libraries system review of services to state institutions review of technical processing, if time permits
February 22	- review of service to state government review of technical processing, if not completed on 1/29
March 12	- review of service to public libraries and other libraries (special, academic and school)
March 29	- review of administration

The committee expects that there will be one or two meetings following the March 29 meeting to discuss funding, other areas of concern and to prepare a report, but dates have not been decided.

The goal of this committee is to present to the State Library Commission a report containing the following:

(a) a definition of what the State Library is now, its functions, duties and activity level;
(b) an assessment of future needs for library service that can and should be filled by the agency;
(c) a projection of what functions and levels of activity that could be anticipated at current funding levels, restricted levels and increased levels;
(d) goals and objectives to guide the Commission and the State Library in the future.

As the review proceeds, the committee wants to involve consumers, those who provide the services and the public.

Comments will be welcome from those who are interested, Henry McClernan, State Library Commission Chairman, announced.

WLN DEVELOPMENTS - Washington Library Network (WLN) staff made several trips to Montana in October and November to install equipment and train librarians at new member locations (the six University units, Montana State Library and the College of Great Falls) in the use of WLN for cataloging, interlibrary loan and reference work.

Ellen Newberg, Head of Technical Services, Parmly Billings Library (Montana's veteran WLN member since 1978) provided consultative services to new members by sharing Parmly's experiences with the rest of the state.

Over 70 librarians from all nine Montana WLN member libraries met at Montana State University, Bozeman, on November 19, 1981. User participants discussed the best way to begin the Montana union catalog with the WLN data base. Librarians analyzed interlibrary loan and circulation patterns, as well as collection strengths, in order to determine which parts of each collection would be the most valuable first additions to the data base during the retrospective conversion process. Other discussion topics were: sharing of training and telecommunications costs; progress on the Union List of Montana Serials; interlibrary loan; federal and state government documents input; and recommendations to WLN regarding enhancements to the data base.

Elizabeth Morrisett, Montana Tech, was selected chairperson of the users' group. Karen Driessen, University of Montana A-V Cataloger, was elected to the WLN Bibliographic Standards Committee. Beth Givens, Montana State Library, will continue to serve on the WLN Computer Services Council.

SATELLITE RESOURCE CENTERS - The State Library Commission has adopted a policy regarding the establishment of satellite resource centers.

The State Library Commission has been studying this issue for more than a year. The Commission named an Ad Hoc Committee to review the question of federation composition and delineation for the whole state and report back to the Commission. Joan Evans, Commission member, was named chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee's work resulted in recommendations which were submitted to the Commission at its May 8, 1981, meeting. These recommendations called for the adoption of the concept of satellite resource centers by the Commission. The federation coordinators requested that the Commission study the recommendations further, which the Commission did, and after revisions the following policy was adopted at the September 18, 1981, State Library Commission meeting:

1. The State Library Commission will consider designation of a satellite resource center whenever 50 percent or more of the services received are, or could be, received from other than the headquarters library, and a library requests such a designation.

    a. The requesting library will submit a plan of service to the State Library Commission which demonstrates its ability to provide an adequate level of service with its share of federation funds based upon county population.

    b. The requesting library will demonstrate an adequate resource base as evidenced by professional staff, size of collection and an active acquisitions program.

    c. If a library is designated as a satellite resource center, sufficient time will be allowed to accommodate the transition.

    d. Any member may contract for services with either the headquarters library or the satellite resource center within its federation.

All federation funds should remain in the headquarters library for disbursal. Since the headquarters library would still have administrative responsibility for federation affairs, its administrative overhead charges would be subtracted from the overall federation revenues before population based allocations are figured. There would be no impact on funds of other federations since a satellite resource center would function within its federation.

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY IS FOUNDATION CENTER AFFILIATE - As of August, 1981, Montana State Library is a local affiliate of the Foundation Center. Apart from the discount this affords us in purchasing Foundation Center publications (of which we maintain an almost complete collection), there are other important benefits. We receive a regular Foundation Center Bulletin, which contains updates about foundations, IRS rulings regarding nonprofit organizations, expanded notes on valuable publications dealing with foundations and grantmaking and "how-to" notes for grant seekers. We also receive the Foundation Center monthly Assessions List, from which we in turn can select key titles to expand and enhance our foundations and grantsmanship collection materials.

As the federal monies become scarce, we are striving to keep up with the need for alternative funding sources information. We are paying special heed to corporate source data. We have recently received the IRS annual reports for all Montana nonprofit organizations on fiche. One item which all Montana libraries might wish to acquire is the 1981 Directory of Montana and Wyoming Foundations. This is available for $5.00 from the EMC Foundation, 1500 N. 30th St., Billings, MT 59101.

Not only does Montana State Library have a healthy materials collection on grantsmanship, but we also use our online reference service to find information about foundations. We inquire about foundations which might best be approached for support of a given project. A publication of note in this area of information is the Grantsmanship Center News. The News is a monthly periodical with excellent content articles for managers of all kinds of organizations, such as "The Delicate Art of Firing" in the September, 1981, issue. This magazine also has abundant informtion on publications available, well organized under major topical areas.